

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 IO-13 ACDA-12 SY-05 /101 W  
-----031055 161221Z /10

R 141540Z APR 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6636  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0877

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, GE  
SUBJECT: GDR PROTESTS "ATTACKS" ON S-BAHN IN WEST BERLIN

REF: BERLIN 2555

1. COMMENTING ON S-BAHN INCIDENT REPORTED IN EAST BERLIN  
PRESS (REFTEL) KUNZE OF SENAT POLITICAL DIVISION TOLD  
MISSOFF APRIL 13 THAT THE GDR HAD CANCELLED WITHOUT EX-  
PLANATION TWO SCHEDULED MEETINGS ON SUEDEGELAENDE AND SPANDAU  
LOCK RESPECTIVELY. HE ASSUMED THIS WAS THE GDR'S WAY OF EM-  
PHASIZING ITS RECENT PROTESTS TO SENAT ABOUT S-BAHN INCI-  
DENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT THE WALL.

2. KUNZE SAID HE WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF GDR  
PROTESTS, ALTHOUGH HE HASTENED TO ADD THAT MITDANK'S THREATEN-  
ING TONE WAS A NORMAL PART OF SUCH EXCHANGES. HE DID NOT KNOW  
PRECISELY WHAT THE GDR HAD IN MIND IN SAYING THAT IT MIGHT BE  
NECESSARY TO INSTITUTE MEASURES IN BERLIN SIMILAR TO THOSE ON  
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THE "WESTERN FRONTIER."

3. AT BRITISH REQUEST, THESE GDR PROTESTS WILL BE DIS-  
CUSSED AT MONTHLY MEETING APRIL 17 OF GOVERNING MAYOR  
WITH COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO S-BAHN INCIDENTS, KUNZE SAID SENAT

WAS IN A BAD POSITION BECAUSE OF GDR METHODS. WHEN AN INCIDENT OCCURS, THE GDR SENDS TRANSPORT POLICE TO INVESTIGATE. THEY REPORT BACK, AND EVENTUALLY THE GDR STATE PROSECUTOR HAS THE FACTS IN HAND FOR A POSSIBLE COMPLAINT. FIVE OR SIX DAYS ELAPSE BEFORE THE GDR INFORMS THE SENAT, USUALLY BY TELEX OF THE INCIDENT. AT THAT POINT, THE WEST BERLIN POLICE ARE TOTALLY UNABLE TO DEVELOP ANY LEADS.

5. COMMENT: THESE INCIDENTS IN THE S-BAHN AND ALONG THE WALL ARE A CONSTANT FEATURE OF BERLIN LIFE, ALTHOUGH THEIR FREQUENCY RISES AND FALLS DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS THE WEATHER. SOME OF THE RECENT INCIDENTS, AND WE SUSPECT THE STRONG GDR RESPONSE TO THEM, RESULTED FROM THE NICO HUEBNER AFFAIR (USBER 730). SEVERAL SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN STAGED AT THE WALL ON BEHALF OF HUEBNER IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ALLOW PLACARDS TO BE VISIBLE TO PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE. SOME OF THE EAST GERMANS ON THE OTHER SIDE APPARENTLY REACTED BY GESTURES OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE DEMONSTRATORS. THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY, REMINISCENT OF THE EARLY POST-WALL PERIOD, OBVIOUSLY SITS BADLY WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN EAST BERLIN. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL DISORDERS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978USBERL00877  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2959313  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GDR PROTESTS \"ATTACKS\" ON S-BAHN IN WEST BERLIN  
**TAGS:** PGOV, GC, WB  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014